

Chau: 6 June 66

1. People regard Ky-Thieu gov as US puppet, after events of last 3 months (what else is holding them up?) responsible for Danang. Must crush Struggle, but military or political means? Will run for assembly; won't associate with parties, till after election. Ky and/or Thieu should resign; too many mistakes; too much identification as US puppet; and successor (whom they could name) would have freer hand to take strong military line and also political initiative. Strong line will beat Struggle; but if Ky stays in, will look like military dictatorship.

2. Vung Tau: office, receptionist. Political training. One month and 20 days; if I come back in a week...

Train dist-prov chiefs, staffs.

Why hamlet defense forces failed in past: a) located badly, not protected by B zone, where RF/PF troops kept out VC; b) handed weapons without preparation, training; motivation; c) lack of gov program/policy to make them want to defend.

Building willingness to defend themselves ("properly organized hamlet can withstand a VC company; with a cadre group as well, a VC battalion"), is goal of whole pac. effort.